

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3003

S E C R E T HELSINKI 2404

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PCAT, PARM, US, UR

SUBJ: US-SOVIET CAT: SUMMARY OF JULY 25 MEETING, MILITARY/
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

1. THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MILITARY/TECHNICAL
CRITERIA WAS HELD ON JULY 25. BLECHMAN HEADED US SIDE;
ADMIRAL VLASOV HEADED SOVIET SIDE.

2. VLASOV ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTION ON THE MEANING OF
CRITERIA 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 8 ON THE LIST OF DRAFT MILITARY/
TECHNICAL CRITERIA TABLED BY THE US SIDE. THE QUESTIONS CON-
TAINED NO SURPRISES. THE THRUST OF THE QUESTIONS HAD BEEN
REFLECTED IN PREVIOUS WORKING GROUP AND PLENARY MEETINGS.

3. IN RESPONDING, BLECHMAN ELABORATED ON EACH OF THE CRI-
TERIA AND EMPHASIZED THAT MANY OF THE QUESTION POINTED UP
THE IMPORTANCE OF CRATING A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM TO APPLY
THE CRITERIA TO SPECIFIC WEAPONS IN SPECIFIC REGIONS.

4. VLASOV ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW UNDELIVERED ARMS
COMMITMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN IMPLEMENTING THE CRITERIA,
CITING A FIGURE OF \$36 BILLION FOR THE US. THIS QUESTION
HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RAISED. BLECHMAN DID NOT CONFIRM OR
DENY THE US FIGURE, NOR TAKE A POSITION ON THE QUESTION.

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HE NOTED THAT THE VALUE OF UNDELIVERED BALANCES OF THOSE
TYPES OF WEAPONS LIKELY TO BE RESTRAINED BY AGREED CRITERIA
WOULD AMOUNT TO ONLY A FRACTION OF THE TOTAL. HE
SAID THIS QUESTION WARRANTED FURTHER STUDY.

5. IN ORDER TO HELP FIND COMMON GROUND FOR DEVELOPING
AGREED MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA, BLECHMAN ASKED A

SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON THE CRITERIA USED BY THE SOVIETS IN THEIR OWN ARMS TRANSFERS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THE QUESTIONS STEMMED FROM (A) MENDELEVICH'S STATEMENT IN PLENARY THAT SOVIETS HAVE DENIED CERTAIN ADVANCED SYSTEMS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES, AND (B) GENERAL GALKIN'S GENERAL STATEMENTS ON SOVIET MILITARY CRITERIA AT THE JULY 24 MILITARY ADVISORS GROUP MEETING. THESE QUESTIONS WERE FRAMED TO IDENTIFY SIMILARITIES WITH US CRITERIA.

6. VLASOV SAID THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD REPLY AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP.
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